

Message Text

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67

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 011421Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6325

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 7813

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJ: OPIUM DEVELOPMENTS

REF: (A) ANKARA 7054 (B) GENEVA 5677

1. ON SEPTEMBER 26 TWO SIGNIFICANT ANNOUNCEMENTS RELATED TO
TURKISH POPPY GROWING WERE MADE IN ANKARA:

(A) MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE OZAL SAID THAT POPPY PLANTING
WILL BEGIN IN OCTOBER ON "20,000 HECTARES" AND WILL INVOLVE
ABOUT 90,000 FAMILIES. OZAL ADDED THAT THERE WOULD BE NEW
PROCEDURES IN THE COMING YEAR, THE MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH
WOULD BE "NOT TO INCISE THE POPPY PODS".

(B) ON SAME DAY TURKISH RADIO ANNOUNCED THAT ONLY 70 PERCENT
OF AREA ALLOTTED FOR POPPY PRODUCTION WOULD BE USED. WE HAVE
CHECKED CAREFULLY ON THIS FIGURE AND BELIEVE THAT IT REFERS
SPECIFICALLY TO FALL PLANTING, WITH THE REMAINING 30 PERCENT
HELD FOR POSSIBLE SPRING PLANTING.

2. WHILE WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT ECEVIT GOVERNMENT IS
FIRMLY COMMITTED TO STRAW PROCESS (REFTELS), WE HAVE ALSO
RECEIVED DURING LAST FEW DAYS REPORT THAT AMENDMENT TO EXISTING
LAW ON SUBJECT WILL LIKELY BE NEEDED (SEE ANKARA A-250 OF
SEPTEMBER 8, 1971). PROBLEM IN LAW IS SEVERAL REFERENCES
TO "RAW OPIUM PRODUCTION" WHICH COULD MAKE ADOPTION OF STRAW PROCESS
DIFFICULT. THIS IS ONE OF THOSE AREAS WHERE POLITICAL STRENGTH OF
CABINET IN POWER COULD DETERMINE WHETHER NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS

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COULD BE MADE BY DECREE OR WOULD REQUIRE AMENDMENT TO LAW NO. 1470.
THUS, POLITICAL EVENTS OVER COMING FEW WEEKS WILL HAVE MUCH TO

DO WITH HOW THIS ISSUE IS HANDLED, BUT WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT BOTH ECEVIT AND MAIN OPPOSITION LEADERS ARE IN AGREEMENT ON ADOPTING STRAW PROCESS.

3. USAID OFFICER IN CONVERSATION SEPTEMBER 30 WITH SENIOR AGRICULTURE MINISTRY OFFICIAL WAS INFORMED THAT GOT STUDIES SO FAR INDICATE THERE WILL BE NO ADVERSE ECONOMIC EFFECT ON FARMERS FROM CHANGE TO STRAW PROCESSING. IN SAME CONVERSATION AGRICULTURE OFFICIAL SAID MAXIMUM POPPY AREAS PER FARMER WILL PROBABLY BE REDUCED FROM FIVE DECARES TO THREE DECARES FOR THIS FALL'S PLANTING. FINALLY, SAME OFFICIAL EMPHASIZED THAT GREENFIELD MISSION TO TURKEY HAD LEFT STRONG IMPRESSION THAT BRACTEATUM WAS NOT LIKELY TO BE USEFUL FOR TURKEY IN SHORT RUN, BUT LEFT LONG RUN POSSIBILITIES OPEN FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. MACOMBER

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER SS/O, LOIS MATTESON, 10/1/74.

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Message Attributes

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